

Cargo service at Muzaffarpur Airport in Bihar

† 5. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration regarding the modernisation of Muzaffarpur airport in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for this purpose;

(d) whether any proposal regarding cargo service from Muzaffarpur airport is under Government's consideration; and

(e) if so, by when this service would be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no proposal to develop the airport at Muzaffarpur as this is a non-operational airport and no flights are operating for more than two decades.

Enhancement of Air Service between Imphal and Guwahati

6. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase the number of flights from Imphal to Delhi *via* Guwahati;

(b) the reasons for stopping the Sahara flights from Imphal to Delhi;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the IC flights from Guwahati to Imphal and Imphal to Guwahati are not accommodating all passengers daily; and

(d) the measures taken for accommodating all passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Operators are free to operate to any place/on any route in their commercial judgement subject of course to

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compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) which provide for certain minimum operation in the North-East and some other far-flung areas.

(c) and (d) During the period September to December, 2000, the average seat factor of Indian Airlines on Guwahati-Imphal-Guwahati route has been approximately 85% *i.e.* about 22 vacant seat per flight. Indian Airlines is already deploying more capacity than stipulated in the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

Diversion of flights due to fog

7. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy fog affects several flights every year in Delhi and the flights had to be cancelled or diverted to other places during winter;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to evolve a suitable remedy; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India has already installed Category-III Instrument Landing System at IGI airport which will facilitate aircraft operations in the low visibility conditions during the fog. Various procedures are being finalised in consultation with Directorate General of Civil Aviation to make it operational by March, 2001.